

From the Land



Bugs Alive!

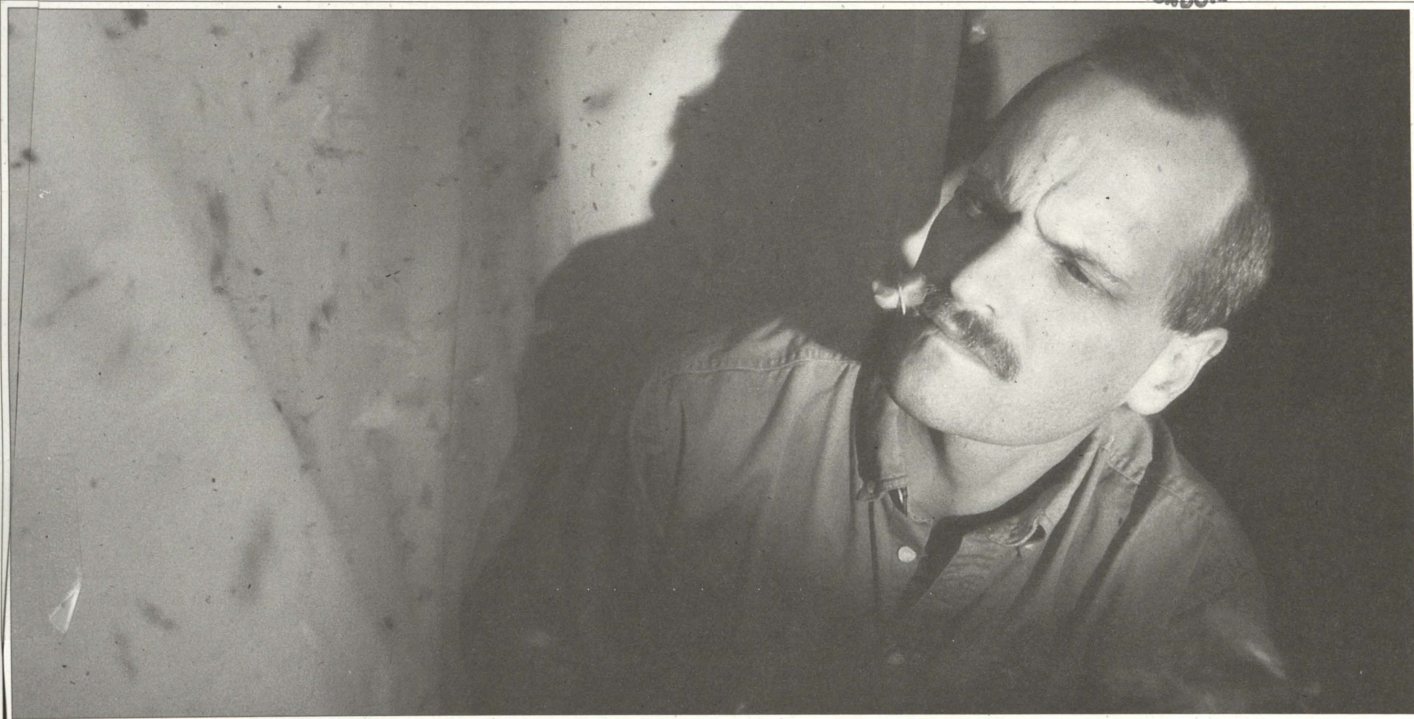
Insect Hot Spot Discovered

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SEP 14 '99

NEW LONDON CONN

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Dr. David Wagner gathers moths in a sheet.

It's an entomologist's equivalent of a giant candy store.

Over two summers of inventory work funded by the Connecticut Chapter, field

researchers found forty percent of the state's lepidoptera (moths and butterflies) in the Canaan Mountain and Robbins Swamp area in Connecticut's northwest corner. Between the two sites, and over just this two-year period, they collected a grand total of 7,693

specimens. Of these, 39 are considered rare in Connecticut, and 10 are new records for the state!

The Connecticut Chapter's funding of the insect inventory work led by University of Connecticut professor of Entomology Dave

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SUMMER/FALL 1999

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The Importance of Cookies

The chocolate chips are everyone's favorite part of the cookie. But imagine for a moment a world with only chips and no dough – is that what you'd really want? Or would something important be lost?

It may sound silly, but this is a simple way into a very complex conservation concept.

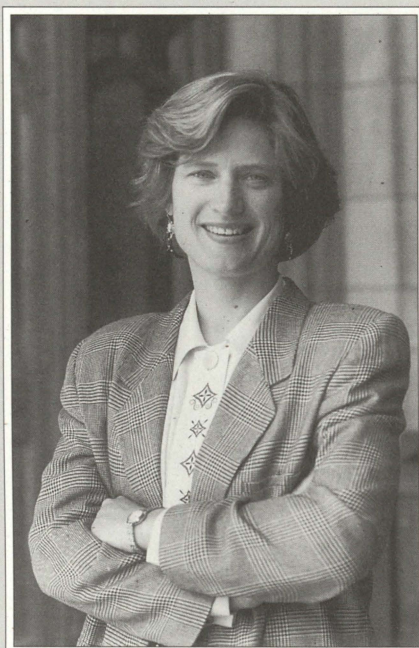
For nearly five decades, The Nature Conservancy has focused on conservation by protecting land that provided habitat for rare animals, plants, and natural communities. That straightforward approach has produced remarkable results, but it may not be enough. As the Conservancy commits to ecoregional conservation, we must train ourselves to consider conservation goals on several scales of biological diversity at once. As Conservancy scientists Karen Poiani and Brian Richter pointed out in their paper "Functional Landscapes and the Conservation of Biodiversity," "Present scientific thinking ... emphasizes the need to conserve patterns and processes at all scales and levels of organization (i.e., genes to landscapes)."

That's where the cookies come in. Conserving a functional landscape means protecting not only the rarest plants and animals – the "chips" – but also the lands and waters between them – the "dough." The highest quality examples of these connecting areas – in New England, most often forests – are themselves biologically very important, and help sustain the rarest plants and animals. That's not the whole

story, but it's the general concept of functional landscapes.

What does this mean? In the simplest terms, it means that, while we're still concerned with such globally rare species as the Puritan tiger beetle, the bog turtle and the spreading globe-flower, we are increasingly committed to understanding

© Michael Marslane



and protecting the landscapes within which they live. What natural processes – flood, fire, freezing – help maintain these places as healthy natural systems? Can these environments maintain those species and those natural processes over the long term? And most important, what can we do to help ensure that they can?

Although this discipline is already familiar to the Connecticut Chapter, we are working to turn it into a conservation plan that's useful on a daily basis. Last fall, the Conservancy received a generous donation from Dan and Lori Efroymson of Indiana for nationwide staff development, particularly in the area of community-based conservation. One result of this donation was a series of workshops, at which staff from different states can discuss and plan their community-based conservation activities within ecoregion projects. The chapter also hosted a day-long conference on the Tidelands of the Connecticut River attended by Greg Low and John Cook, Conservancy vice presidents for U.S. conservation and major programs, respectively, as well as Poiani and other key staff from the Connecticut chapter and the Northeast Division Office.

The results have been exciting, freeing us to think in new ways, and consider our conservation goals from new directions. So far, we know that Connecticut contains numerous outstanding examples of functional landscapes, giving us the opportunity to protect the state's biological diversity more effectively than ever. As we face the beginning of a new millennium, that seems like a good start.

— DENISE SCHLENER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY AT WORK

	Worldwide	Connecticut
Total Transactions:	19,733	702
Total Acres Protected:	11,099,000	25,246
Members:	1,004,192	23,042
Corporate Associates:	1,800	42

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Tipping the Scales

Tidelands Priorities Are Taking on a Whole New Size

Conservation on the lower Connecticut River once meant protecting land where eagles roost and plovers hatch. Today it's taking on a new scale.

"Plants and animals are important, and we'll always be concerned with the rarest ones," said Nathan Frohling, who is Geoffrey C. Hughes Director of the Tidelands of the Connecticut River Program. "But now we're thinking that a high quality river system like the Eightmile River is important, too. And we have to think about protecting the processes that keep it healthy."

Frohling swept his hand over a map of the Eightmile River's 62-square-mile watershed. "When we look at the landscape, we're looking at a variety of environmental factors: ecological processes, functions, things that determine its health," Frohling said. "The biggest threat is probably the incremental erosion of habitat integrity. There's always pressure to develop."

In this issue's "From the Director" column (page 2), Denise Schlener uses the analogy of a chocolate chip cookie to explain "functional landscapes." Frohling points out that the word "functional" is of key impor-

tance here: "These landscapes have a function they provide," Frohling said. "And they're able to do that because so much of them is intact and healthy."

The chapter has an opportunity to play an important role in protecting some of these "cookies" in Connecticut, some of which are of considerable size. One of them is the Eightmile's watershed, which meanders through parts of Salem, East Haddam and Lyme before meeting the Connecticut River.

Compared with many other American rivers of its size, the Eightmile is in remarkably good shape, which is why it is one of the priorities of the Tidelands program.

- Its watershed contains some remarkable large blocks of undeveloped forest – despite more than 350 years of settlement, it is more than 80 percent forested.

- It comprises a variety of habitats, from its cold, fast-flowing headwaters to the freshwater tidal marshes at Hamburg Cove, where it meets the Connecticut (the Eightmile takes its name from its distance from the Connecticut's mouth.) Its water quality is high.

- It is relatively free-flowing, with only two significant dams. A fishway has already been installed at one of them, and another fishway is planned for the second, thanks to the work of the state Department of Environmental Protection, the Lyme Land Conservation Trust, and the Connecticut River Watershed Council. It has been recognized as an exemplary undammed river, one of Connecticut's 12 most imperiled natural communities.

- It provides exemplary habitat for trout, contains populations of freshwater mussels and a healthy mix of submerged aquatic plants, and two globally rare plant species live in its watershed.

- The tributaries of the Eightmile are also significant. State Department of Environmental Protection Fisheries Biologist Steve Gephart in 1994 referred to Burnham Brook as "classic Atlantic Salmon habitat in nearly pristine condition," adding, "The Burnham Brook Preserve contains the best salmon habitat in the entire watershed, and perhaps some of the best juvenile salmon habitat in southern New England."



© Judy Preston



The Eightmile River, Lyme.

"Of the watersheds that feed the lower Connecticut, the Eightmile really stands out," Frohling said.

Although the Eightmile River has emerged as a clear priority for the Tidelands program, this is an early result of a process that began only recently: the creation of a new strategic plan for the program. Frohling and other chapter staff have been consulting with scientists from across the country in a series of workshops that have illuminated the planning process the Conservancy is applying to conservation on an ecoregional, "landscape" scale, and how the Tidelands program fits into it. As the Conservancy sets its priorities on an ecoregional, national, and ultimately international scale, each state must identify its own priorities, and make its case for them in those larger contexts.

"Those who know the Tidelands know it's an extremely beautiful place," Frohling said. "We see it, we breathe it, it's part of the landscape. It's something intuitive we know. But we have to go beyond that feeling, focus on what's really special here, and articulate the next steps we'll take to help protect it."

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Lyme First Selectman Ralph F. Eno Jr. (left) and Nathan Frohling.

Interview: Karen Poiani

Karen Poiani is the Nature Conservancy's national landscape ecologist. She also has a courtesy assistant professor appointment in the Department of Natural Resources at Cornell University and works out of an office on campus. In June, she and Brian Richter, director of The Nature Conservancy's Freshwater Initiative, completed "Functional Landscapes and the Conservation of Biodiversity," which offers the Conservancy a framework for landscape conservation.

The paper advocates fundamental changes to the way the Conservancy sets its priorities. In this approach, instead of conserving individual species and communities, the Conservancy would commit itself to conserving "patterns and processes at all scales and levels of organization, i.e. genes to landscapes."

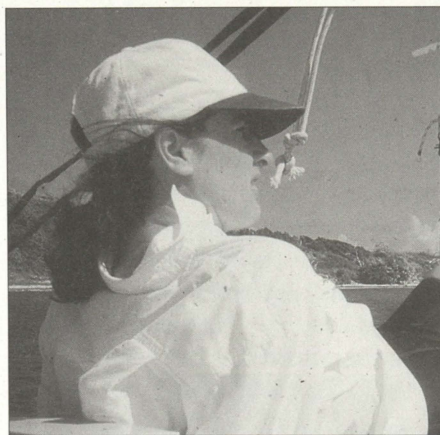
In the following interview, Karen talks more about these important concepts the Conservancy is beginning to put into effect.

Your paper recommends that the Conservancy focus on functional landscapes, as opposed to functional sites. How would you explain the difference?

Although they are difficult to define exactly, you can tell the difference between a functional landscape and a functional site when they are in front of you. In the (above mentioned) paper we describe the difference in terms of the conservation targets they each seek to protect.

In the Tidelands area, for example, a functional site would focus on one or two conservation targets, such as the Puritán tiger beetle, or natural communities like saline, brackish or freshwater marshes – it's relatively well-defined, and it's pretty easy to name the species and communities we want to conserve. It's like grabbing one slice of pizza — perhaps the one with the most mushrooms and pepperoni — and focusing our efforts just on that piece.

On the other hand, functional landscape conservation focuses on conserving — or maybe eating — the whole pizza pie. The focus is on trying to conserve the entire integrated natural system with all its component pieces — from rare and imperiled species and uncommon communities to high quality common communities and species. For the Conservancy, this typically means adding "matrix"* or common community types to our conservation efforts.



Landscape Ecologist Karen Poiani

In the Tidelands, this would include expanding our perspective from the rare beetle to the common forest that surrounds its very unique and specialized habitat.

What we've actually recommended is increasing our focus on functional landscapes and functional sites that target biodiversity at multiple spatial scales. (Editor's note: as mentioned in the introduction, from "genes to landscapes.") The major point is that if there is a healthy, high quality matrix community surrounding the rare species and smaller communities, there is no question that the rare species and smaller communities will be more effectively and efficiently conserved, especially over the long term and against human-induced environmental changes, such as global climate change.

If you think about it, ecological systems are open systems — a beetle isn't in a well-protected box. It's an integral part of a vast and dynamic system that literally has no boundaries. It seems unlikely that we can protect a beetle and still have residential development up to the edge of its habitat. That's why we need to be identifying and conserving functional landscapes.

* Note: A "matrix" natural community type is the wide-spread vegetation in between rare species and smaller uncommon communities. To use another food analogy, the rare species and uncommon communities are the chocolate chips and the matrix communities are the cookie dough.

Do you think that in the future the Conservancy will focus less on individual preserves and rare species, or will we continue to dedicate a large part of our time and resources to them, as integral parts of functional landscapes?

I think that the second part of your question is probably more accurate: we must continue to protect rare species through buying and managing preserves, and other strategies. The ultimate goal is for those preserves and species to be embedded within functional landscapes to the fullest extent possible. It's not always going to be possible — rare species are not always embedded in functional landscapes, but we've got to start shifting our thinking in this direction. We should also consider restoration of matrix communities in appropriate circumstances.

In addition to embedding rare species and our preserves within functional landscapes, the Conservancy needs to be more rigorous in assessing the functionality of small sites and sites focused on small or isolated species populations. We have to ask ourselves the tough questions: are the conservation targets viable over the next 20 years? Are they viable under the potential of global climate change?

How far along is the Conservancy in incorporating these new priorities into our work?

I would say that the organization as a whole is just rounding first base. There are a handful of sites that have been thinking about multi-scale conservation and matrix communities for many years. The Conservancy is at a very exciting point in its evolution, with an exponential increase in our attention to functional landscapes and landscape conservation.

It's important to remember that we have been a rare-element-based organization for a very long time and that we are not abandoning this important strategy. Our new landscape focus is about building on a rare element approach to embed these important elements of biodiversity within areas of high ecological integrity.

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Insect Hot Spot Discovered

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Since these matrix communities are so huge, the Conservancy obviously won't try to own them all. How do we do conservation on land we don't control?

The expanded focus on functional landscapes naturally leads the Conservancy into community-based conservation and partnerships. Most functional landscapes will be large. It will be rare for the Conservancy to own such vast areas. There will be a few cases, like the (51,000-acre) Niobrara Valley Preserve in Nebraska, but those will be the rare exceptions. The primary strategies for conserving functional landscapes will be partnerships and community-based conservation.

The Conservancy has a goal of protecting 500 landscape-scale projects in the next 10 years. I not so secretly hope that at least half of these will be functional landscapes. If even half of these new landscape projects are functional landscapes, the Conservancy will have dramatically changed the way it approaches conservation. As I said, these are exciting times and we're only beginning to see the implications of these changes.

© Frank Kazmarek *



Canaan Mountain and Robbins Swamp have proven to be rich with moths and butterflies.

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Wagner has helped lead to some tremendous discoveries and an extraordinary amount of information.

The inventory efforts focused on lepidoptera, although researchers also collected species from other groups, including dragonflies, ants, horseflies and deerflies. The goal of the project was to collect baseline information about the locations and abundance of these species, and document any regionally rare or endangered occurrences.

In addition to discovering a tremendous diversity of insect fauna at these locations, this work also yielded important information on the types of natural communities that are essential to these species, and in and of themselves uncommon and worthy of protection.

For example, northern scrub oak and blueberry heath communities harbor unusual and imperiled biota.

The Nature Conservancy is continuing its funding to David Wagner and his students this summer. Their investigations of forested upland sites on Canaan Mountain will continue to add to our understanding of the invertebrate diversity of this important area, and may yield additional state records. All of this information adds to our collective understanding of Connecticut's natural heritage, and gives us important information for protecting and managing biological diversity.

**The editor regrets misspelling the photographer's name in our last issue.*

Natural Enemies

It grows as tall as ten feet, spreads at rates of one to two percent annually in the lower Connecticut River wetlands, and seems to be everywhere. It's the common reed, *Phragmites australis*, one of Connecticut's most ubiquitous invasive plants.

But, could *Phragmites* have a natural enemy? Biological control of natural pests can be a mixed blessing. Introduced insects have been considered environmentally friendly alternatives to pesticides. The danger, of course, is that once unleashed, they cannot be controlled, and could be as harmful – or more so – than the species they were meant to help control.

"Unfortunately, every weed control technique carries some risks with its potential benefits," said John Randall, the Conservancy's weed specialist, in an article in the July/August Nature Conservancy magazine. "Our goal is not killing weeds, it's protecting natives."

The Nature Conservancy officially prohibits the use of biological control on lands it owns or manages, though permission has been granted in a few cases from leading Conservancy scientists and the national board of governors. Although there are currently no plans for use of biological controls by the Connecticut Chapter, *Phragmites* has become enough of a threat to native species for chapter staff to try to learn more about species that could impede it.

Two insects known to be detrimental to *Phragmites* are native to Connecticut. One is a once-rare skipper, *Poanes viator*, which historically feasted on wild rice, but has acquired a taste for the reed. The other is the leaf blotch miner (*Dicramoctetes saccharella*), which also attacks vegetation. Neither insect appears to be devastating to *Phragmites*, but such insects have been known to increase their impact over time, perhaps through sheer weight of numbers.

Moreover, there are two non-native but probably "naturalized" insects (species introduced accidentally that have lived in the state long enough to appear to function as natural parts of their ecological systems) that hold promise for fighting *Phragmites*.

Shoot flies (*Liparis similis*) are found in Connecticut, New York and Rhode Island. The larvae burrow into the tops of *Phragmites* shoots and prevent the plant from flowering. The indication of this insect in the plant is a stunted stalk and two

vegetative "flags," or non-flowering shoots that are four to eight inches long.

Another possibility is the moth *Rhizodra lutosa*, which is found in Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York and Rhode Island. The moths lay eggs in late summer and early fall, on leaves that drop to the ground. The larvae hatch the following spring and bore into new shoots of the reed. Maturing larvae bore into rhizomes, the subterranean roots through which *Phragmites* spreads, and pupate in the soil,

extensively damaging the roots in the process. This insect shows its presence by stunted *Phragmites* growth that is entirely yellow.

Significant research must take place before any active use of any of these species to control *Phragmites* in Connecticut. Conservationists are acutely aware of the Pandora's box they hold when they contemplate such ecological tinkering. Nonetheless, in areas where the battle against *Phragmites* appears to be lost, biological controls offer a ray of hope.



A wall of *Phragmites* at the Chapman Pond Preserve, East Haddam. Could there be a natural cure?

Field Research 99

The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter is funding the following research projects this year through the H. Allen Mali Research Fund, the Goodwin Science Fund, the Pfizer Inc research fund, the Tidelands Wetland Grants Fund, the Housatonic River Mitigation Fund, and the Connecticut Urban Public Education Program:

Mali Grants:

Trevor Becker of Southern Connecticut State University will survey Connecticut and document breeding populations of Northern goshawk and provide information on breeding habitats. \$1,896

Scott Heth of Sharon Audubon Center is extending the 1998 Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) project to monitor productivity and survivorship of birds on Canaan Mountain. \$1,273

James Zingo of the University of Massachusetts is examining the foraging ecology and reproductive success of roseate terns (*Sterna dougallii*). \$5,000

Kate Miller of Yale University is studying the field habitat requirements of the Northern leopard frog (*Rana pipiens*) at Robbins Swamp and the Hollenbeck Preserve, and the effects on this amphibian of mowing its habitat. \$1,404

Goodwin and Pfizer Grants:

Robert Capers of the University of Connecticut is conducting a study of community dynamics of submerged aquatic vegetation in five freshwater tidal wetlands. \$2,393

Lela Schuster of the University of Connecticut will examine habitat requirements for Parker's pipewort (*Eriocaulon parkeri*), a threatened plant in the state. \$4,000

Kristin Saltonstall of Yale University will study genetic variation in the invasive common reed *Phragmites australis*. Saltonstall will try to solve the mystery of whether *Phragmites* is an opportunistic colonizer from older genetic lines or a new, more invasive strain. \$2,500

Housatonic River Mitigation Fund:

Dr. Randolph Chambers of Fairfield University and Dr. David Osgood of the University of New Haven will conduct a field test of controlling *Phragmites* growth in tidal marshes of the lower Housatonic River. This study continues successful work in 1997 and 1998 and will determine whether artificial flooding with salt water can control the invasive reed in marshes. \$2,280

Dr. Chambers will also conduct a population study of diamondback terrapins in the lower Housatonic River. This study

will monitor nesting habitats and adult population structure on Milford Point and Nell's Island Marsh in Milford. \$2,250

Urban Public Education:

Dr. Joseph Crivello of the University of Connecticut will organize an Estuary Watch Program, with students from inner city schools conducting scientific monitoring of salt marshes using mummichogs, an indicator species, to track estuarine and salt marsh health. \$4,138



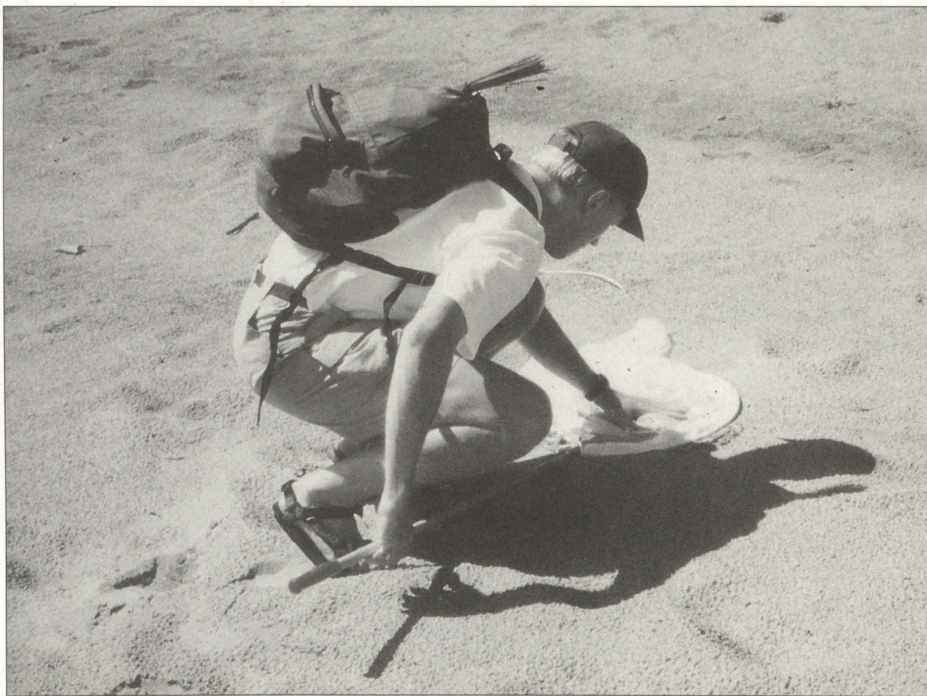
A prayer for the Puritan?

It's the size of your pinky nail. It eats other insects. It has vanished from nine of eleven sites where it was collected earlier this century. Today, it is the rarest creature in Connecticut.

Is the Puritan tiger beetle (*Cicindela puritana*) approaching extinction? The Connecticut populations appear to be stable, but that may not mean much in the long term. Kristian Omland wants to know more. Using a \$4,000 grant from the chapter's Goodwin Science Fund, the University of Connecticut graduate student is analyzing the population viability of the beetle, continuing field work conducted in 1998.

By using existing information, his own research and mathematical models, Omland will assess the risks the beetle population faces, as well as its capacity to recover from disturbance. He will design her assessments to help point the way toward alternative management of the beetle, such as cutting back vegetation near its habitat, restricting recreational use of the area, or restoring unoccupied beetle habitat.

© Bill Toomey



University of Connecticut graduate student Kristian Omland searches the sands for tiger beetles.

We Want You ... To Join the WeedMasters!

As you read through this newsletter and other Nature Conservancy publications, again and again you'll encounter news on the threat of invasive species. This issue alone contains features on possible biological control of the common reed *Phragmites*, and on the arrival of the zebra mussel at an interior Connecticut lake.

The reason for all this attention is simple: invasive plants and animals are a real, growing, worldwide threat to our rarest native species and natural communities. Many conservation biologists believe that they are the second greatest cause of extinction globally, after loss of habitat.

But you can help out!

The Connecticut Chapter has received a grant for the second year from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to pursue a new approach to increasing volunteer involvement in control of invasive species and collection of ecological monitoring data.

During the next several years, the WeedMasters will collect data to determine the impacts of invasive species on the composition of native plant communities, the recovery of native plant communities following the removal of invasive plants, and the recruitment of new invasive populations into removal areas.

Although we're now most of the way through this year's season, more WeedMaster volunteers are always welcome, for this year and the years ahead. To learn more, please call or write Volunteer Coordinator Chris Joyell, or email him at cjoyell@tnc.org.

Attention Plover Lovers!



Rebecca Halloran, our warden this summer at Griswold Point, has good news to report regarding Connecticut's most recent piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*) residents. Between the two nests located at Griswold Point and Hatchett's Point in Old Lyme, six chicks hatched on May 27. All the young fledged successfully in the last week of June.

Similar success was reported from chapter volunteers monitoring plover nest sites, including Sandy Point in West Haven and Long Beach in Stratford.

Piping plovers are a federally and state threatened species. Plovers nest from Nova Scotia south to North Carolina, with a population in the Great Lakes region ranging north into Alberta, Canada. They arrive in Connecticut to nest in late March, laying eggs in early May. Plovers winter along the southern coast from North Carolina to Texas and into the Caribbean.



Griswold Point Warden Rebecca Halloran



Left to right: At the April Griswold Point work party are Volunteers Fred Moore of Old Lyme, Bob Peterson of Westbrook, Helen Kuzina of Middletown, and Assistant Director of Stewardship David Gumbart.

© John Mathiesen



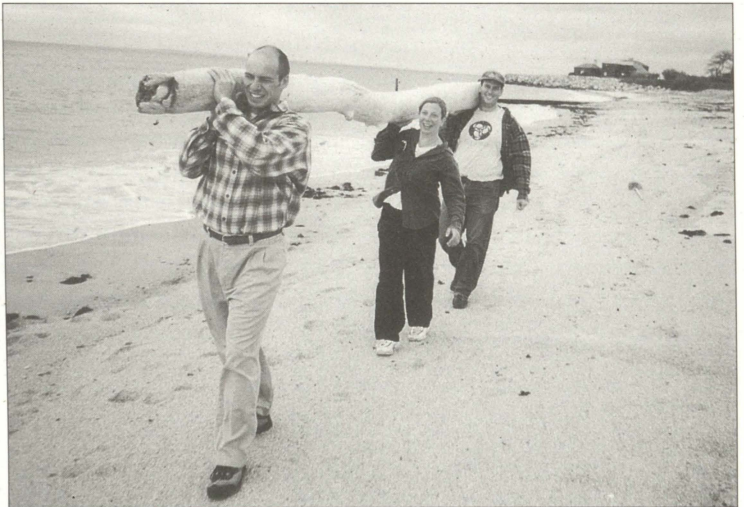
Volunteer Fred Moore of Old Lyme (left) and Director of Science and Stewardship Judy Preston prepare signs at the April work party at Griswold Point.

© John Mathiesen



Volunteer Chuck Landrey of Old Saybrook pounds a post at the April work party at Griswold Point.

© Richard Conniff



Left to right: Volunteer Coordinator Chris Joyell, Science & Stewardship Assistant Nicole Martinez, and Assistant Director of Stewardship David Gumbart bring a log to help protect a piping plover nest at Griswold Point.

© David Gumbart



Left to right: Nicole Martinez, Chris Joyell, and Richard Conniff of Old Lyme next to an installed enclosure.

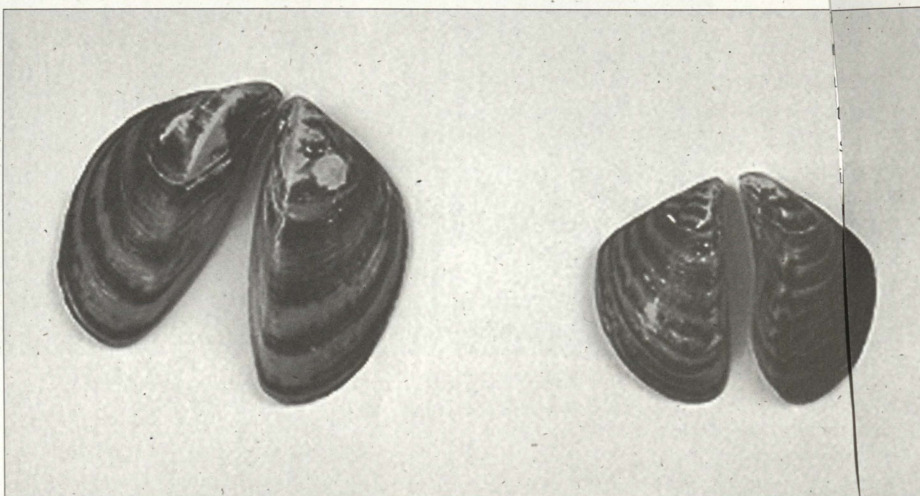
Unwelcome Guest

The zebra mussel, one of the most notorious aquatic exotic species, was discovered in Twin Lakes in Salisbury last September. This is unwelcome news, both because the lakes are ecologically significant and relatively undisturbed sites, and because they were believed to have been free of this aggressive invasive species.

Zebra mussels were first discovered in North America in the mid-1980s. They are believed to have arrived in ballast water released in the Great Lakes by ships travelling from Europe. Since their introduction, they have spread into large rivers and lakes throughout the central and eastern United States. Female zebra mussels are known to produce 40,000 eggs per spawning, helping the species rapidly dominate an aquatic ecological system. It usurps limited resources from other species, and its abundant feces fertilize algae blooms that in turn deplete dissolved oxygen from the water.

The zebra mussel is known to be devastating to native freshwater mussels, many species of which are declining, or threatened with

© Jon Golden



The zebra mussel displays the origin of its name.

extinction. Being the preferred food for many fish and mammal species, mussels are the basis of numerous wildlife food chains. But one in ten American mussel species has become extinct in this century, and almost three-fourths of the remaining species are globally rare. (In contrast, fewer than seven percent of birds and mammals are considered rare.) In Connecticut, for example, the federally endan-

gered dwarf wedge mussel (*Alasmidonta heterodon*), which once lived in a dozen state waterways, now survives tenuously in only one Hartford County stream.

The Nature Conservancy's Connecticut and Massachusetts chapters are collaborating with the Zebra Mussel Task force, including funding interns, to help form a strategy for the control of zebra mussel in this region.

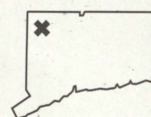
Bargain Purchase at Wangum Lake Brook

The chapter has purchased 43 acres in a bargain sale on the wetland at Wangum Lake Brook in Canaan, a crucial component of one of the most important conservation sites in Connecticut. The \$21,500 purchase from Jessie Lee Storms of Wolcott and James and Joseph Datillio Jr. of Canyon, Calif. bring the chapter's Wangum Lake Brook Preserve to 430 acres.

The land lies just east of 1,050-foot Cobble Hill and south of Barnes and Under Mountain Roads on both sides of Wangum Lake Brook. The brook runs from Wangum Lake on Canaan Mountain to the southern end of Robbins Swamp, the largest inland

wetland in the state. There it meets the Hollenbeck River, a tributary of the Housatonic River. On its way, the brook twists through lowlands disturbed only by an intermittent beaver dam.

A vast tussock swamp surrounds the brook. This wetland is calcareous, meaning it is based on limestone. Many unusual plants specialize in calcareous habitats, and this area is known for its concentration of rare plants, animals, and natural communities. The immediate area around Wangum Lake Brook contains six plant species listed as rare in Connecticut. The brook and wetland are also essential components of the chapter's 33,000-acre Robbins Swamp



"macrosite," one of its most important conservation priorities in the state.

There are also signs of early settlement of the area discovered by the American Indian Archeological Institute.

The new acquisition is adjacent to 41 acres donated in 1977 by Laura Louise Foster of Canaan. In late 1997, William J. Schrenk Jr. and Katherine L. Schrenk gave the chapter a conservation easement on their 346-acre sheep farm, which is upriver from the new acquisition. Wangum Lake Brook flows for about a mile through the Schrenk land, now protected from development by this easement.

Creative Means of Corporate Support

"State Street Global Advisors is delighted to support The Nature Conservancy," said Peter F. Culver, President of **State Street Bank and Trust Company of Connecticut**. "We applaud their valuable mission and appreciate the opportunity to work with such a first-class organization."

Peter Culver puts his money where his mouth is. State Street Bank and Trust Company, which has offices in Hartford and Greenwich, helped underwrite the chapter's annual report this year, allowing us to provide more information to all our members, and also freeing up other funds for conservation work.

Many corporations in Connecticut and across the country have chosen to support the efforts of The Nature Conservancy, and do so because they share our vision of a healthy environment and a healthy economy. As Nature

Conservancy President John Sawhill said, "We believe that communities thrive – now and in the long term – when they act decisively to conserve the natural resources upon which their economies depend."

While unrestricted cash gifts to the chapter are our most common form of corporate support, some corporations give us in-kind donations of goods and services or underwrite events and publications, and over the years we have received land donations as well. This past year, for example, **Bell Atlantic Mobile** provided us with cell phones and free service – an invaluable asset for our field staff.

We welcome corporate support and thank our many friends in the corporate community for their commitment to The Nature Conservancy and to protecting threatened natural habitats. 🌱

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

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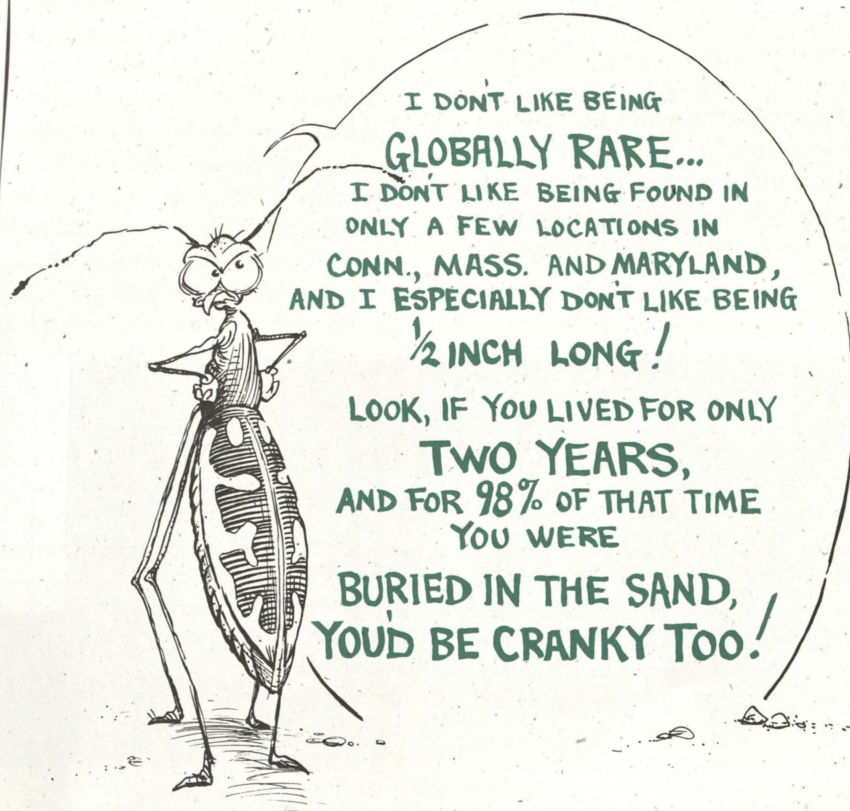
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From the Land

Published quarterly for the members of
The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter

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Lord Cove, Lyme.

Davison Family Sets Aside More of Lord Cove



Jane I. Davison of Lyme has donated a conservation easement on 16 acres at the north end of Lord Cove in Lyme to the Connecticut Chapter.

This donation brings the Lord Cove Preserve to a total of 271 acres, all protected through gifts. Most recently, Jane Davison and her late husband, Endicott, donated an 18-acre easement at the preserve in 1994 and a 31-acre easement in 1993; the family has protected more than 101 acres at the site, all through donations. The state owns 348 acres at Lord Cove and the Old Lyme Conservation Trust owns 64 acres.

Lord Cove is an excellent example of brackish tidal marsh land. Many bird species roost and perch within the marsh and surrounding uplands, including species that are endangered in Connecticut, such as the northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) and sedge wren (*Cistothorus platensis*); species that are threatened in Connecticut, such as the king rail (*Rallus elegans*) and the least bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*), the federally threatened bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), and the savannah sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*), a species of special concern in Connecticut.

Lord Cove also includes the habitat of ten plant species listed as endangered, threatened, or of special concern in Connecticut, many found at multiple locations throughout the marsh.

New Heights in Hartford

Governor and Legislature Approve Most Open Space Funding Ever

State support for local conservation protected land across Connecticut this year, from Easton to Essex to Farmington to Vernon. The funds made the protection of Trout Brook Valley possible (see page 14), as well as numerous smaller projects initiated by local municipalities and land trusts. And there's more to come!

Gov. John G. Rowland and the General Assembly approved a budget including the most funding for open space protection ever in the recently concluded legislative session. In his proposed state budget for the next biennium, the Governor recommended and the legislature approved a total of \$64 million in state bonding for open space acquisition.

The Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust program, through which the Department of Environmental Protection purchases additions to state parks and forests, will receive \$20 million for each of the next two years. The Open Space Matching Grants Program, which provides acquisition funds to municipalities and non-

continued on page 17

Partners in Conservation



Connecticut's environmentally significant lands are vast – more than The Nature Conservancy could ever protect on its own. That's why the organization is committed to community based conservation work, and land trusts are the natural partners for this approach.

The Connecticut Chapter has a close relationship with many state land trusts, largely thanks to the work of its Land Trust Service Bureau. By working in partnership with land trusts in land protection and other areas, the Conservancy is able to accomplish more than it could by itself. Moreover, much of the land the chapter helps protect with land trusts would revert to the Conservancy were the land trust to fail. Although this is generally unlikely, it adds an extra layer of long-term conservation protection to significant lands.

Three recent land protection projects are good examples of fruitful partnerships.

Historically and Environmentally Significant

In a move to protect 95 historically and environmentally significant acres on the Eightmile River, two siblings donated a conservation easement to the chapter in May. The site contains a forested wetland and 2,400 feet of frontage on the Eightmile River.

Landowners John M. "Jack" Bodman Jr. of Chappaqua, N.Y. and Marjorie B. Roegge of Grand Rapids, Mich. donated the easement as a memorial to their parents, the late John and Helen Bodman, who lived on the ancestral farm and wanted to preserve it. The Music Vale Seminary site was home to the first seminary for women to receive a

degree in music in the United States, as well as one of the early piano factories in the U.S.

The chapter will transfer the easement to the Salem Land Trust in the near future.

"Our land trust is very pleased with this conservation victory at a key location," said Salem Land Trust Director David B. Bingham. "And we look forward to future partnerships with The Nature Conservancy." The Salem Land Trust was incorporated in 1994, and is among the newest land trusts in Connecticut.

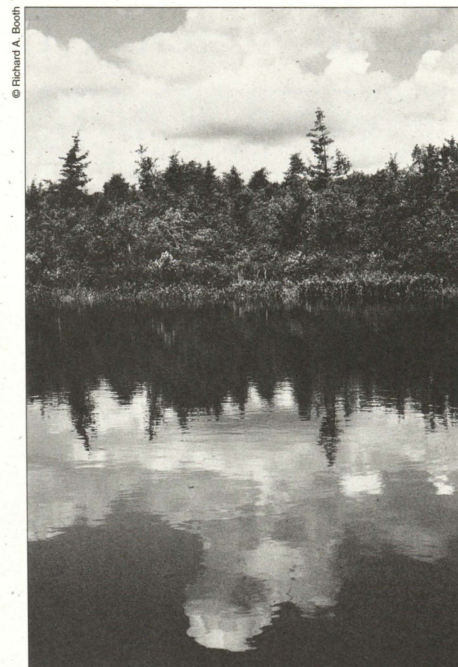
A Jewel in the Northeast Corner

In April, the chapter and the Wyndham Land Trust purchased 11.5 acres at Lower Pond in Thompson. The parcel is adjacent to 29 acres that the land trust protected with help from the Conservancy in 1994. The acquisition will bring the Wyndham Land Trust's holdings at this site to 40.5 acres.

Because there is no road access and the land is primarily wetland, it will not be publicly accessible. Lower Pond is recognized by the Connecticut Natural Diversity Database as one of the state's best examples of Atlantic white cedar swamp, and contains habitat for several significant animal and plant species, including a plant listed as endangered in Connecticut.

The Conservancy and the land trust made the purchase from Gay Choiniere, conservator of the estate of Adeline Isabel Barker, for \$8,050. The two groups are now working to replenish their acquisition funds, as well as to cover closing costs and create a stewardship endowment for the property.

"This land is a natural resource that will benefit the entire region for many generations to come, both as a beautiful area and as wildlife



Lower Pond, Thompson.

habitat," said Wyndham Land Trust President Philip G. James. Since its founding in 1975, the Wyndham Land Trust has protected more than 680 acres in Windham County.

Key Parcel at Tidelands Site

Also in April, Margaret D. Wilson of Deep River donated a small but significant parcel to the chapter. According to the terms of the donation, the Conservancy will in turn transfer the land to the Deep River Land Trust. The tract has about 300 feet of frontage on the Connecticut River directly north of Brewers Deep River Marina, which is at the entrance of Pratt Cove. It consists of freshwater tidal marsh wetland dominated by woody shrubs and saplings.

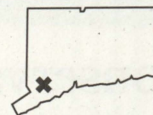
"This is an excellent way for our land trust and The Nature Conservancy to work in partnership to protect land of mutual interest," said Deep River Land Trust President Tom Gootz. The Deep River Land Trust was founded in 1975, owns 76 acres in town, as well as 9 acres in conservation easements, and has about 240 members.

Pratt and Post Coves contain almost 200 contiguous acres of pristine freshwater tidal marsh that include large areas of pickerelweed, arrowleaf, soft-stem bulrush and wild rice. The marshes provide habitat for four aquatic plants listed as species of special concern by the state Department of Environmental Protection, as well as an exemplary natural community uncommon in the state.



Roundleaf sundew are among the plant species found in the Lower Pond area.

Home Stretch at Trout Brook Valley



Trout Brook Valley is at the heart of ten square miles of forest.



The closing on Trout Brook Valley takes place this month, and approximately 91 percent of the funding to purchase the land is in place.

The Nature Conservancy, the Aspetuck Land Trust and numerous volunteers have raised \$4.55 million, more than four-fifths of the private fund-raising goal of \$5,550,000. Combined with \$6 million committed by the state Department of Environmental Protection and \$850,000 committed by the town of Weston, this leaves about \$1 million yet to be raised to purchase the 668-acre property.

"Trout Brook Valley will be a magnificent public resource that will benefit Connecticut for many generations to come," said Gov. John G. Rowland, an early supporter of the effort to protect Trout Brook Valley. "It's precisely the kind of place we had in mind for open space funding." Rowland proposed in January 1998 that the state make \$166 million available for open space purchases over five years.

"It's great to be on the home stretch," said Aspetuck Land Trust Executive Director, Bruce LePage. "Trout Brook Valley is a wonderful asset for all of Connecticut and Fairfield County."

"I always knew we could do this, but the response we've gotten from many different sources has been exciting and inspiring," said Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter Executive Director Denise Schlener. "We still have our work cut out for us, but we have a lot of momentum. In September, Trout Brook Valley will be available for all to enjoy."

On June 5, 1998, The Aspetuck Land Trust exercised its statutory right of first refusal and committed to purchasing the 668-acre Trout Brook Valley property by September 1999.

Representatives from the Aspetuck Land Trust, the Conservancy, and DEP have started planning a system of trails through the property to connect with trails of the two adjoining

land trust properties, Jump Hill and Crow Hill preserves. Planning is also underway for a horse trail through the property. These hiking trails will add to an already extensive network of trails in Weston and Redding known as the Saugatuck Valley Trail System. This trail system runs from the West Redding Fire Station and Gallows Hill Preserve in Redding, south to Devil's Den Preserve and the John P. Senior Dam at the bottom of the Saugatuck Reservoir. Now hikers will be able to continue their trek after a short walk by Devil's Glen along Valley Forge Road and then into Trout Brook Valley and Easton.

We Still Need Your Help!

The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter and its partners still have \$1 million to raise for the purchase of Trout Brook Valley in Easton and Weston. Setting aside this beautiful and vulnerable land benefits the entire state and beyond by providing both a public recreation area and a section of southern New England's once-abundant forests that we can pass along to future generations.

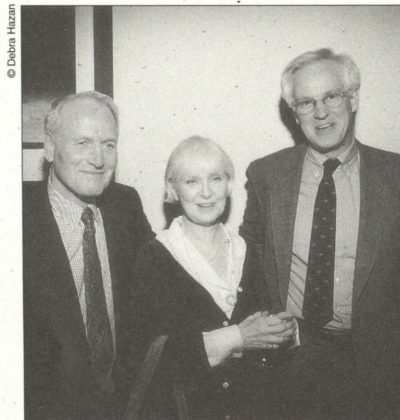
We mailed an appeal for support of Trout Brook Valley to all our members in June. Please consider mailing yours back with a generous contribution. If you did not receive yours, please call the Connecticut Chapter at 860-344-0716, or e-mail us at ct@tnc.org. We'd be happy to mail you another copy!

A "Love"-ly Day Yields \$180,000

A sold-out Valentine's Day performance by Westport residents Joanne Woodward and Paul Newman of the A.R. Gurney play "Love Letters" raised more than \$180,000 for the Aspetuck Land Trust's purchase of the Trout Brook Valley property in Easton.

The renowned philanthropists and actors presented the performance before an audience of 700 at the Westport Country Playhouse. Paul Newman has already pledged \$500,000 toward the purchase through Newman's Own.

Honorary co-chairs of the event were Bruce LePage, executive director of the Aspetuck Land Trust; state Sen. John McKinney of Southport; actor James Naughton of Weston; Denise Schlener, executive director of The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter; and state Rep. John Stripp of Weston. Co-chairs are Princie Falkenhagen of Easton; Pam Naughton and Ariane Tallman of Weston and Clea Newman and Nancy Sherter of Westport.



Left to right: Paul Newman, Joanne Woodward, and Chapter Board Chairman Anthony P. Grassi of Wilton.



Attorney General Richard Blumenthal says a few words.



Left to right: Director of Development Lyn Traverse, Edward F. Glassmeyer of Westport, Chapter Vice Chairs Stewart Greenfield of Westport and Austin D. Barney II of West Simsbury, and Barney's daughter Amanda.

National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Challenge Grant

The Aspetuck Land Trust, through the efforts of the staff of the Connecticut Chapter, has received a \$400,000 challenge grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) for the purchase of Trout Brook Valley. This represents a grant of \$100,000 from the Iroquois Gas Operating Pipeline Settlement Fund and \$300,000 in challenge funds and in kind donations that **must be raised by the chapter and the land trust in the next twelve months.** To qualify as a match, contributions should be made out to "NFWF". Checks may be sent to the chapter forwarding to NFWF.

Receipt of this grant by the land trust at this time provides our collaboration with additional momentum and is an excellent opportunity to close gifts to Trout Brook Valley. Because of the complexity of this grant, and because the chapter will not be directly involved in receipt or recording of qualifying matching gifts, please call Charles Clark, Myles Alderman, or Lyn Traverse at the Connecticut Chapter office, 860-344-0716, with any questions.

For members:

Activities at Devil's Den Preserve, Weston and Redding.

Advance registration is required for all walks, and space is limited. Groups must make separate arrangements for private tours.

To register and find out where to meet for all programs at Devil's Den Preserve, please call 203-226-4991, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Some event parking is off site. All events are free.

Directions to Devil's Den: take the Merritt Parkway to Exit 42; go north on Route 57 for 5 miles; turn right onto Godfrey Road for .5 mile; turn left onto Pent Road and follow to end in preserve's parking lot.

**Sunday, August 29,
9 a.m. to 11 a.m. or 1 p.m.
Beat the Heat at The Den.**

A cool, early-morning walk of approximately three miles beside a river in the woods will refresh every hiker. Those interested in adding two to three additional miles can participate in an extended guided tour at the end of the first session. Bring water and a snack lunch. Leaders: Gary Lupinski and Ann Maio.

**Thursday, Sept. 9,
8 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Moths at Night at The Den.**

Different species appear at different times of the night and season. Larry Fisher will show how to attract and study these creatures on a short night walk. Bring a flashlight. Minimum age: 8. Co-leader: Cia Marion.

**Sunday, Sept. 12,
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
East Meets West.**

For this 8- to 10-mile Saugatuck Valley Trails hike, carpool from off-site parking to the start at The Den's West Branch and hike to the reservoir's East (or main) Branch of the Saugatuck River with a stop at the Great Ledge overlook for lunch. Bring water and a snack lunch. Leaders: Ann Maio, Cia Marion, and Heather Seymour.

**Sunday, Sept. 12
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Family Nature Walk at The Den.**
Natural History Guides Marci Kendall and Dr. Ben Oke will lead this short walk around Godfrey Pond and nearby trails.

**Tuesday, Sept. 14
9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Adult Hike at The Den.**
Celebrate the beginning of fall leaf color at the largest dedicated nature preserve in southwestern Connecticut. Leaders: Louise Bachler and Helene Weatherill. No registration required.

**Saturday, Sept. 18,
7 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
Fall Migrant Bird Walk at The Den.**
Michael Corcoran will identify birds in their annual migration. Bring binoculars and a bird book. Minimum age: 10. Co-leader: Cia Marion.

**Saturday, Sept. 18,
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Bottoms Up at The Den.**
Hikers will explore the east side of the preserve from its lowest to its highest point on this seven-mile hike with lunch at the Great Ledge. Bring a snack lunch. Leaders: Meg Forbes and Cia Marion.

**Saturday, Sept. 25,
9 a.m. to noon.
Workday at The Den.**
Volunteers will ready the trails for fall visitors and school groups.

**Saturday, Sept. 25,
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Painting Demonstration at The Den.**
Local painter and printmaker Nancy McTague. Stock will integrate other materials into watercolors in an outdoor painting demonstration. Minimum age: 10. Co-leader: Louise Bachler.

**Sunday, Sept. 26,
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Ravines and Reservoirs.**
This 6 to 8-mile hike beside evergreens and water views should cool and refresh every hiker. Bring a snack lunch and call The Den office for directions on where to meet. Leaders: Bob Eppinger and Len Horowitz.

**Saturday, Oct. 2,
9:30 a.m. to noon.
Mushroom Walk at The Den.**
Sandy Sheine from The Connecticut/Westchester Mycological Association (COMA) will identify mushrooms. Bring a magnifying lens. Co-leader: Cia Marion.

**Sunday, Oct. 3,
8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Saugatuck Valley Trails Day Hike.**
Experienced hikers and trained Natural History Guides Jonathan Brochstein, Steve Jacober, and Ann Maio will guide hikers along approximately 10 miles of gloriously varied scenery starting at The Den and ending north of Saugatuck Falls in Redding. Bring along a snack lunch and call The Den Office to find out where to meet.

**Sunday, Oct. 3,
Sunday 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Fall Leaves and Trees at Katharine Ordway Preserve.**
At the height of the leaf season, Arborist Fred Moore will identify trees at the arboretum and preserve. Co-leader: Marci Kendall.

**Thursday, Oct. 7,
9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Hawk Watch at The Den.**
Larry Fischer will identify migrating raptors at Deer Knoll. Kestrels and Sharp-shinned Hawks should be in flight. Bring binoculars. Co-leader: Dorothy Abrams.

**Saturday, Oct. 9,
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Open Farm Day.**
Sunny Valley Preserve, New Milford
Sunny Valley invites friends and neighbors to come pet a cow, tour a barn, inspect farm equipment and take a hayride. Bring the family! Call the Sunny Valley Preserve office at 860-355-3716 for more information.

**Monday, Oct. 11,
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Five-Mile Hike.**
Celebrate Columbus Day by exploring trails in Redding with Leaders Jane and Jere Ross. Traversing 4 to 5 miles at the Limekiln Natural Area in Redding, hikers will enjoy fabulous views and massive glacial erratics in this geological wonderland. Call The Den Office for directions on where to meet.

**Tuesday, Oct. 12,
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Adult Hike at The Den.**
Doris Falk and Helene Weatherill will lead this hike through spectacular fall foliage. No registration required.

**Sunday, Oct. 17,
7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
The Expedition: Redding to Easton.**
The 15-mile hike will run from the West Redding Firehouse, past Saugatuck Falls and the Great Ledge, along reservoir trails and Devil's Glen, and around trails at Trout Brook Valley. Leaders: Jonathan Brochstein, Steve Jacober, Cia Marion, and Ann Maio.

**Sunday, Oct. 17,
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Family Nature Walk at The Den.**
The autumn blaze of colors will approach its peak as Leaders Penny Kemp and Howard Pierpont reveal information about the largest nature preserve in southwestern Connecticut and its inhabitants.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ...

... **work parties**, please call Chris Joyell at (860) 344-0716.

... **The Den or Katharine Ordway preserves**, please call (203) 226-4991.

... **The Sunny Valley Preserve** please call (860) 355-3716

Advance registration required for all walks, unless noted otherwise, and number of participants is usually limited to 20.

Wings of the Americas: The Jamaica-Connecticut Connection

Take a walk in the woods this time of year and you'll see – or at least hear – songbirds. If you're a member of The Nature

Conservancy, you're helping to protect the woods where the scarlet tanager, rose-breasted grosbeak, and black and white warblers spend spring and summer. What you may not realize is that you're also helping protect and study their tropical wintering grounds.

The Nature Conservancy and Jamaica's leading conservation organization, the Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust (JCDT), initiated a project in 1997 to assess comprehensively bird distribution and abundance in Jamaica's first national park. This program is being conducted thanks to a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant to the Conservancy's Wings of the Americas and Caribbean programs and JCDT.

Researchers designed the Jamaica Bird Protection Initiative, as it is called, to survey a variety of the diverse tropical rainforest habitats in Jamaica's Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park, and to conduct a thorough assessment of conservation threats and needs of its resident birds. To create the Connecticut-Jamaica bird conservation linkage and to build on the success of the



Counter-clockwise from bottom left: Devil's Den Assistant Director Dr. Lise Hanners, Dr. Jeffrey Parrish of the Wings of the Americas program, Hernan Torres of the Conservancy's Caribbean program, Dr. Marcia Mundle and Suzanne Davis of JCDT.

Bird Protection Initiative, JCDT, trained local individuals, and Dr. Lise Hanners of Devil's Den Preserve are now compiling data from the many bird studies that have already occurred within the site into a format useful for management.

"We share the worm eating warbler with Connecticut," said Dr. Marcia Mundle, conservation science officer for JCDT, who visited Connecticut in June and met with chapter board and staff. "It's a direct connec-

tion between Connecticut and Jamaica. I saw them in Connecticut when I visited, and I will look forward to finding birds (tagged at The Den) in the Blue & John Crow Mountains National Park."

Field scientists are collecting data on the number and abundance of bird species in the park, identifying critical areas and habitats for birds of conservation concern, and monitoring the use of human-disturbed habitats by local bird species. This project will encourage local support of the park through education initiatives, promoting avitourism programs, and providing training to guards and tour guides. This project enlists local support through education on the park's natural resources, promotion of ecotourism programs, and training for park guards and local tour guides.

"This is the kind of nuts and bolts work that has to happen if we hope to conduct meaningful international conservation," said Dr. Hanners. "Before we can take any further steps, we need to understand where the populations of these birds are, where they're abundant, and where they're struggling. There's no shortcut for this type of research."

continued from page 12

proit conservation organizations, will receive \$17 million annually.

Last year the General Assembly approved Gov. Rowland's proposal to commit \$166 million to protecting open space over the following five years. The Governor's proposal was a response to recommendations from his 15-person Blue Ribbon Task Force on Open Space, of which Chapter Trustee Diana Atwood Johnson and Executive Director Denise Schlener were members.

Other legislative action this year:

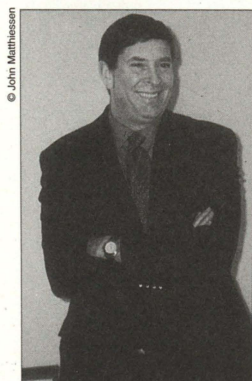
• A bill passed that will give tax deductions or credits to companies that sell, donate or sell for below market value open space land or easements to the state, municipalities or

land trusts. A measure to give similar credits to individual landowners was rejected, as was a proposal to allow towns to levy an extra quarter percent real estate conveyance tax to fund local open space acquisition.

• A measure passed this year that had failed previously will prevent land trust land from being taken by adverse possession, Connecticut's equivalent of "squatter's rights." Under this doctrine, a person who uses someone else's land in an open way without the owner's permission, for example, to increase their lawn or put up a shed, can legally claim that part of the land for that use after fifteen years. Land trusts – including The Nature Conservancy – will now no longer be vulnerable to these claims.

The Nature Conservancy, the Trust for Public Land, the Connecticut Fund for the Environment, and the Connecticut Audubon Society coordinated their efforts on behalf of these initiatives through the Land Conservation Coalition for Connecticut, which is administered from the chapter's Middletown offices. For information about joining the Land Conservation Coalition of Connecticut, call Linda Bowers at (860) 344-0716, ext. 314.

Happy Trails to Chris!



Chris Wood at his farewell reception.

Northwest Highlands initiative.

The chapter bids farewell to Chris Wood, who has served since 1992 as director of the chapter's Sunny Valley Preserve in New Milford and Bridgewater, and who led the chapter's

Chris took over at Sunny Valley not long after the chapter resumed control of the preserve. With the help of Preserve Manager Wayne Woodard and Preserve Administrator Margaret McCauley, Chris led the fiscally struggling operation back to fiscal balance, conducted a wide range of deferred maintenance, created a new strategic plan for the preserve, and initiated successful new programs such as Open Farm Day.

Chris lives with his family in Woodbury, and left the Conservancy to serve as planner for that town. Margaret McCauley, who has worked with Chris since March of 1993, is serving as interim director of the preserve.



Chris Wood leads a walk at the Hollenbeck Preserve in Falls Village in 1996.

Farewell to Polly



Polly Richter (left) receives a farewell gift of a print of the Eightmile River from Chapter Executive Director Denise Schlener. Polly has been very involved with education in local schools on ecological issues related to the Eightmile.

Polly Richter left the chapter staff this spring to pursue a career in teaching. When she left, Polly was the longest-term member of the staff. She began as office manager in 1980, a job she performed until 1989, when she switched to finance manager. In her time at the chapter, Polly worked with three differ-

ent state directors, and performed a variety of tasks, including editing the chapter newsletter, running its annual giving program, and working with every program area and the board of trustees on preparing chapter budgets. We'll miss Polly, and wish her luck in her new career.

Donating Retirement Assets

Planning the estate of an individual who has a substantial amount of money invested in individual retirement accounts or similar tax-deferred retirement plans is complicated by the heavy tax burden that can attach to these assets upon the death of the account owner and his or her spouse.

All too often, the IRS receives the lion's share of these funds in the form of income and transfer taxes, with only a small fraction left for children or other beneficiaries. A tax-saving alternative that many individuals find attractive is to leave some or all of their retirement funds to The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter.

The transfer can be accomplished by changing the beneficiary designation of the IRA or qualified retirement plan to the chapter.

A Roth IRA Trap

With many persons converting retirement assets to Roth IRAs nowadays, the use of such assets for a charitable gift needs to be carefully examined. Unlike taxable retirement assets, the charitable donation of a Roth IRA may be a substantial mistake. Since the tax on the Roth IRA has been prepaid and the appreciated amount can thereby pass to heirs tax free, it makes more sense to make a charitable donation using taxable assets that would otherwise be subject to capital gains unless donated to charity.

Interested in Volunteering?

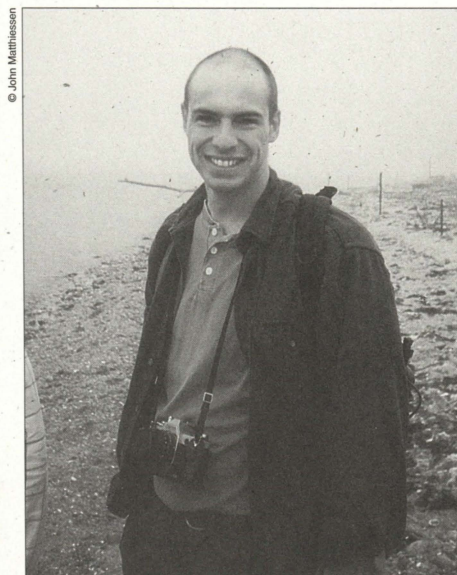
Meet Chris Joyell

Chris Joyell joined the Connecticut Chapter in May as the volunteer coordinator. He is organizing volunteer activities for the science and stewardship team, in addition to lending assistance to the rest of the chapter. Chris is recruiting volunteers for various programs, including:

- Least Tern/Piping Plover Monitoring Program (Old Lyme, Stratford, and West Haven)
- Bald Eagle Program at Shepaug Dam (Southbury)
- Conte Refuge WeedMasters Program (Tidelands of the Connecticut River region)
- Preserve Monitoring Program
- Summer/Fall Field Work Parties

A Connecticut native, Chris received his undergraduate degree from Yale University and his law degree from the University of Connecticut School of Law. Prior to arriving at the Connecticut Chapter, he worked for several years in the legal publishing business as an environmental legal editor.

In addition, Chris has a long history of volunteering, including work for the Trust for Public Land and the Farmington River Watershed Association.



Volunteer Coordinator Chris Joyell.

If you are interested in volunteering for The Nature Conservancy, please call or write Chris or email him at cjoyell@tnc.org.

Summer/Fall Work Party Schedule

Calling all volunteers – we need you! All work parties are held rain or shine, although severe weather may force us to cancel them. Please register at least one week prior to the start date of the work party by calling Volunteer Coordinator Chris Joyell. We need your name and telephone number in the event we have to change or cancel a date, and your address so we can mail site directions and additional details.

SEPTEMBER

6 through 10: Robbins Swamp, Falls Village. *Rock removal.*

OCTOBER

2: Tidelands of the Connecticut River. *"Source to Sea Cleanup"* of the Connecticut River, a multi-state effort organized by the Connecticut River Watershed Council and Massachusetts Community Water Watch.

31: Sunny Valley Preserve, New Milford and Bridgewater. *Trail maintenance.*

Important Changes Ahead

The Nature Conservancy will install its long-anticipated new membership database this fall. We expect the system to enable us to serve our members more efficiently than ever. However, there may be minor glitches during our full conversion process. Please bear with us if you receive extra mailings or let us know if you have not received newsletters and magazines. With Y2K just around the corner, we may need to make some minor adjustments to our systems.

New Trustees



Emilie Mead Pryor of West Cornwall earned a bachelor's degree in geography and environmental studies from the University of Vermont and a master's degree in museum education from the Bank Street College of Education in New York City. She has worked as a grant writer for the Open Space Institute and for the Audubon Naturalist Society, and has done organizational development for small environmental groups in southeast Asia for the World Wildlife Fund. She currently serves as secretary of the board of the RARE Center for Tropical Conservation.



Dorinda Winkelman of Essex earned a bachelor's degree in History from Beaver College and a masters of education in counseling and human development from George Washington University. Her professional experience includes bereavement support for Hospice at St. Vincent Hospital in New York. Dorinda serves on the board of Capital Campaign Friends Seminary and of the College of Mount Saint Vincent in New York City. She owns Meridian Services, a small airplane charter company.

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"A Gift for Nature is a Gift for All Children."

—Kathy E. Bates
Legacy Club Member

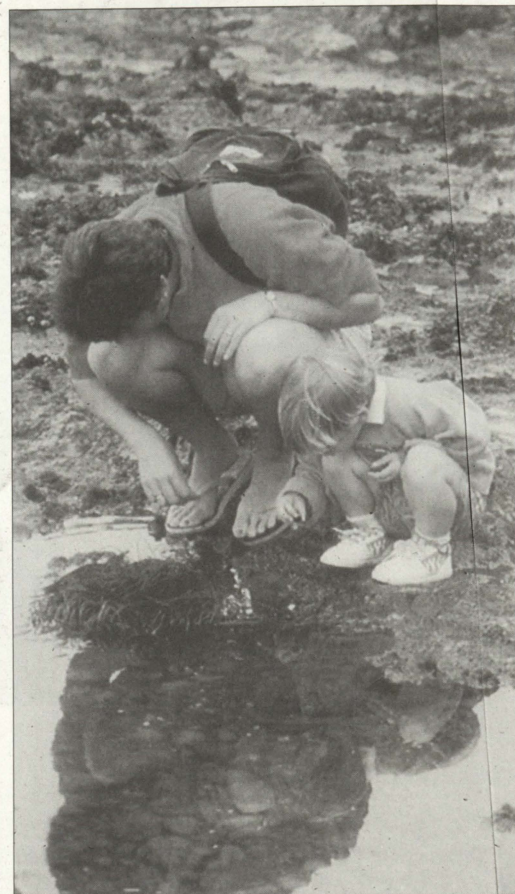
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Make a gift for future generations--leave a legacy.

To learn more, please contact our field office.

David Totman, Planned Giving Officer
860-344-0716 ext. 331



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Save the date! Chapter Annual Meeting October 16

Watch for your invitation!



At Coleytown Middle School in Westport, fifth grader
Kelly Nalen presents a check for \$3,106.60 to Major
Gifts Officer Charlie Clark for The Nature
Conservancy's Adopt-An-Acre program. The fifth
grade raised the funds, which will protect rain forest
lands in Central America.

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